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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

SEPTEMBER, 1848.

THE PRESENT CRISIS.

THE present is obviously a grand crisis in the history of our race, and big with weal or woe to unborn myriads. The world seems now to be turning on the hinge of its destiny for centuries, if not for all coming time. The political firmament in particular is red with the most portentous omens; every thing is in agitation or suspense; and the great brotherhood of civilized nations are apparently at the dawn of a new era. The elements, now in a state of fusion, must soon receive, like molten metals, a definite and permanent form. Whether they will cool off into republicanism or monarchy, into freedom or despotism; whether France will quietly settle down upon the basis of a wise and well balanced republic, or act over again the bloody and terrible scenes of her first revolution; whether Europe is to emerge in peace from the political earthquake which has shaken almost every one of her thrones, and prostrated some of them in irretrievable ruin, or is to be convulsed with a general war, the long predicted war of opinion, that shall, like the wars consequent on the French Revolution of 1793, or like the Thirty Years' War in the middle of the seventeenth century, exhaust her treasures, and drench her fairest fields in blood, and put back the world's evangelization and general improvement a whole century or more; are questions which no friend of God or man can fail to revolve with the deepest interest and anxiety.

We shall not now dwell on the various aspects and bearings of this crisis; but every one must perceive that it calls aloud for a tenfold increase of efforts in the cause of peace as the first great want of the times. There *must* be peace, or the dial-plate of the world's progress will soon be turned back many ages. Without peace, what will ere long be the condition of Europe, of America, of every quarter of the

globe? What will become of the churches in Christendom, or of the various instrumentalities now at work for the spread of Christianity over the whole earth? Let Europe, as in past ages, be plunged into another general war of twenty or thirty years' duration; and it would be sure not only to crush the nascent hopes of freedom there, but to cripple, if not suspend, nearly every enterprise of Christian benevolence or reform, to paralyze the best energies of the church, and arrest for ages the progress of Christianity both at home and abroad.

Every one now recognizes these bearings of our cause; and thus the way is opened for a much more effective advocacy of its claims. For years it has been regarded, by not a few good and well informed men, as a sort of intangible abstraction which could have little to do with the great practical interests of the church or the world; but now every candid, thoughtful mind must see at a glance how closely it is linked, how completely identified with all the chief interests of mankind, both for time and for eternity. Blind indeed must that man be who does not now recognize the cause of peace as dealing directly with the great political, social and spiritual interests of our whole race.

The public mind, moreover, is awake more than ever before to the claims of this cause. Little have these been heeded hitherto by the million; a strange, unaccountable apathy on the subject has pervaded the mass even of good men; and hence a cause, as sacred and important as any other, has been very generally undervalued and neglected. At length, however, public attention is turning to the subject as one of great and vital importance. Wise and good men begin to see and ponder its bearings; and even the multitude are inclined to hear, and read, and inquire with an interest never before felt. Not only Christians and philanthropists, but politicians and men of business are opening their eyes to the claims of this cause in its bearings on the whole circle of human interests, especially those of commerce, and trade, and every department of business, of freedom and national prosperity.

Surely, then, the time has come for efforts in this cause far greater than have ever yet been made. Now when attention is so extensively awake to its claims, and the public mind so open to conviction and impression; now when every body must see the vital importance of peace to ourselves, to Europe and the world; now while we are smarting under the manifold evils, and blushing at the deep disgrace of our late conflict with Mexico; in view of the blood and treasure it has wasted, of the families it has bereaved and desolated, of the wives it has made widows, and the children it has reduced to

orphanage, want and sorrow ; now is the time for the friends of peace to put forth a tenfold increase of effort in this cause. Instead of the four thousand dollars contributed the last year, we need and ought to have this year thirty or forty thousand ; enough to keep an agent at work in every State, to scatter our proposed Review of the War in every neighborhood, and put a copy of our best publications in the library of every Sabbath school, and in the hands of every Christian minister, every legislator, every editor, and every distinguished man throughout the land. It *can* be done—*shall* it be ? Ponder the question ; and we will say more upon it in due time.

PEACE AND POLITICS.

PEACE belongs of course to the department of Christian politics. It seeks to bring the international policy of the whole world into conformity to the pacific principles of Christianity, to restrain nations or governments from settling their disputes by the sword, and induce them to adopt in its place substitutes, such as negotiation, arbitration, and a congress of nations, which shall supersede its alleged necessity entirely and forever. It is thus the very climax of politics, the most important result attained or sought by government, a point to which its aims and its energies should ever converge. The principles of peace, designed for the guidance of governments in their intercourse with each other, should always be applied, in perfect sincerity and good faith, to every question of difficulty or dissatisfaction between them. Such was their design ; and, if thus applied, and woven into the web and woof of their reciprocal policy, nations would ere long cease entirely from the work of mutual butchery, and begin in earnest to beat their swords into plough-shares, their spears into pruning-hooks, and learn war no more.

Do you say this would be meddling with polities ? True ; but the gospel was designed and fitted for just such interference with the world's international policy. In no other way can it ever cure the terrible malady of war. As a medicine, it must be rightly applied before it can heal the great war-cancer festering for so many thousand years on the bosom of our race. The sole aim of our cause is to insure such an application wherever Christianity prevails, and over the whole earth as fast as the gospel goes over the earth, so that all nations, unlike those of present Christendom, shall, as a matter of course, abandon the custom of war as soon as they become Christians.